

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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Winter 1990 Volume 60 Number 1



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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FRONT COVER: Thayer's Gull, Saylorville Reservoir, 7 December 1989. Photo by Steve Dinsmore.

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The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor.

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Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

- \*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653)
- \*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010)
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- \*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Carl J. Bendorf, 845 Cypress Ct., Iowa City, IA 52245)

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## IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

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## I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 715 West St., Colo, IA 50056).

## MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010):

- \*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.
- \*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1987 Edition: 10 for \$1.65, 25 for \$3.50, 100 for \$11.60, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings for \$0.10 each.

## REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Francis Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703.

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# BIRDING SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR AND BIG CREEK STATE PARK

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE, HANK ZALETEL, AND BERY ENGBRETSSEN

One of the premier birding spots in central Iowa is the area including Saylorville Reservoir and Big Creek State Park in Polk County. Saylorville Reservoir, comprised of 5,400 acres of water and 13,000 acres of adjacent upland, is located 5 miles north of Des Moines. Big Creek State Park, comprised of a 905-acre lake and 2,200 acres of adjacent upland, is located 1 mile northwest of Polk City.

Their close proximity to the Des Moines River valley makes both Saylorville Reservoir and Big Creek State Park major stopovers for a wide variety of birds. More than 290 species have been seen in the area, including such rarities as Red-throated and Pacific loons, Clark's Grebe, Harlequin Duck, Red Knot, Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers, Little, Thayer's, Great Black-backed, Lesser Black-backed, and Sabine's gulls, Red Phalarope, and Rock Wren. More than 95 species of birds are summer residents in the area, including Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Pileated Woodpecker, and Prothonotary Warbler. Many of these summer residents probably nest there.

One warning is in order; do not park in front of gates to closed areas around Saylorville Lake. Park to the side of the road, or, better yet, park in designated parking areas and walk to the closed area.

Begin at the Saylorville Dam (1). Park in one of the two pull-offs on the north side of the dam. During migration, large numbers of loons, grebes, waterfowl, and gulls congregate on Saylorville Lake. Spectacular numbers of gulls may congregate there in November and December. In fall, Red-necked and Western grebes, Tundra Swan, Oldsquaw, all three scoters, and Bonaparte's and Franklin's gulls are regular. Northern Shrike and Snow Bunting may winter on the dam face.

Head west across the dam and then south to the spillway below the dam (2). In fall, numbers of gulls may feed on the river here. East of the spillway are two old gravel pits (3). Check the pits for waterfowl and gulls in migration. When water levels are low, herons and shorebirds sometimes use the ponds.

Return to the dam and drive to the east end of the dam. At the stop sign turn right. This road bends east to another stop sign. Turn right again onto NW 37th St. Drive 0.5 mi south to the Cottonwood Recreation Area (4). Good numbers of waterfowl and gulls feed along the river here in fall and winter. Bald Eagles can often be seen here in winter.

From the entrance to Cottonwood, turn right on NW 37th St., and then immediately right onto NW Toni Dr. Follow this road south for 0.9 mi to a stop sign. Turn right on NW 66th Ave. Drive 0.2 mi west to a parking lot on the north side of the road. This is Sycamore Access (5). The stretch of river south of 66th Ave. is home to a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers. A Great Blue Heron colony is located about 1 mi south of 66th Ave. on the east side of the river. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and Prothonotary, Yellow-throated, and Kentucky warblers also summer in this area.

From Sycamore Access, drive 0.7 mi east on NW 66th Ave. to Fisher Lake (6). The lake, an old oxbow, is private property. The best viewing is obtained from the

shoulder of NW 66th Ave. Normally, the lake is unproductive. However, during dry years, good numbers of shorebirds and herons may congregate here.

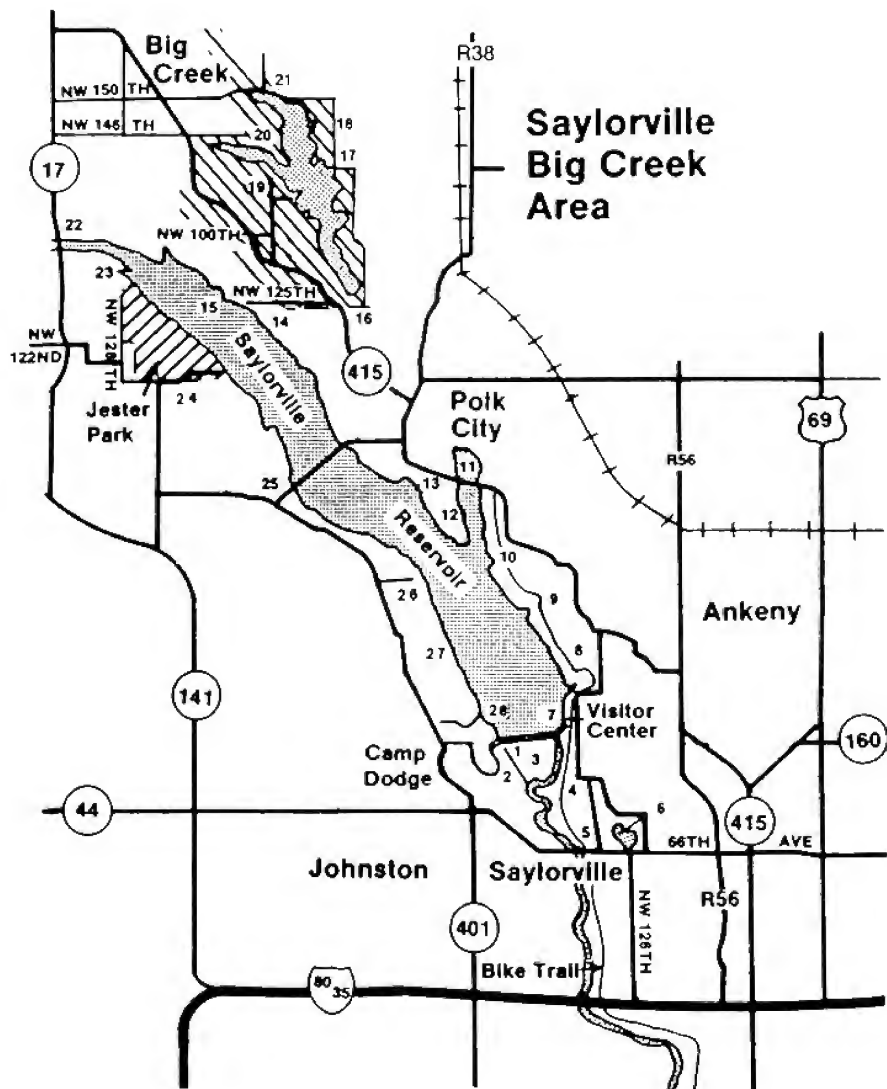


Figure 1. Birding areas of Saylorville Reservoir and Big Creek Lake. Numbers correspond to areas described in the text.

Return to the east end of the Saylorville Dam. Just north of the road that goes across the dam is the Saylorville Visitors Center (7). The numerous feeders around the building are worth checking in winter. Maps of the area and other information

may also be obtained here. From late fall to early spring, this is the only place that has restrooms open to the public.

Return to NW 37th St. and turn left (north). This road soon bends east and becomes NW 84th Ave. About 0.2 mi east of NW 37th, turn left (north) on NW 35th St. Follow this road north to a stop sign at Iowa 415. Turn left and then immediately left (west) again. Follow this road west to Red Feather Prairie (8). Park in the parking lot on the north side of the area. Sedge Wren, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird may nest here occasionally. The bike path along the west side provides good access to the area.

Return to Iowa 415 and turn left (north). Drive north for 0.4 mi to NW 94th Ave. Turn left (west) and follow this road to Cherry Glen Recreation Area (9). This is an excellent vantage point from which to scan the lake for loons, grebes, and other waterfowl. American Pipits and Snow Buntings frequent the rock jetty and the parking lot in October and November.

Return to Iowa 415 and turn left (north). Follow Iowa 415 for approximately 1 mile and then turn left (south) on NW 44th St. This road soon bends west and leads to Oak Grove Beach (10). The beach is usually open from May through September. The main attraction of the area is the large number of gulls and terns that roost on the beach, particularly in fall. Caspian and Common terns are regular here. The beach is probably the best place in central Iowa to see Sanderling, particularly in August-October. Black-bellied Plover, American Avocet, Ruddy Turnstone, Baird's Sandpiper, and American Pipit are also regular here in migration. In winter, look for Snow Buntings on the parking lot and beach.

Once again, return to Iowa 415 and turn left (west). Follow Iowa 415 west and north for 1.4 mi to a "bridge" where you have water on both sides of you. On your right is Polk City Wildlife Area (11), a wildlife refuge that is closed to the public from 15 September-25 December. This area often attracts large numbers of waterfowl during migration. When water levels are low, numbers of herons and shorebirds sometimes concentrate here. If you wish to get closer turn back on Iowa 415 and drive about 0.1 mi to the second drive on the left. This will take you down to the level of the lake. A walk along the abandoned road on the north side of the area provides a good view of some marshy areas to the north.

South of Iowa 415 and opposite #11 is the Saylorville Marina (12). You may look from the shoulder of Iowa 415 or from the marina parking lot. Large numbers of waterfowl may congregate here during migration, particularly when there is a northwest wind.

From the marina, follow Iowa 415 west for 0.5 mi to the entrance to Sandpiper Beach (13). The beach is usually open from April-October. This area hosts many of the same species as Oak Grove Beach. The cedars along the west side of McBride Dr., just past the entrance, are good for Long-eared and Short-eared owls. The weedy areas along McBride Dr. have Bell's Vireo and Lark Sparrow in summer.

Return to Iowa 415 and follow the road north 1.1 mile to a 4-way stop in Polk City. While in Polk City, keep an eye out for the flock of Wild Turkeys that are resident in town. Turn left at the stop sign, staying on Iowa 415 (also called NW Madrid Dr.). Drive west and north for 1 mi and turn left (west) on Jester Park Dr. Follow this road to the Big Creek Spillway (14). This is an excellent spot from which to scan the lake. Large numbers of gulls and ducks sometimes feed and roost around the spillway. Another parking lot is located on the north side of the spillway.

Return to Iowa 415 and turn left (north). Drive north for 0.8 mi, past the entrance to Big Creek State Park, and turn left (west) on NW 125th Ave. Follow the road

west to a T-intersection and turn right (north) on NW 126th Ave. This road soon bends west and ends in a circular turn-around. This is the northeast side of Saylorville (15). Park here and follow the trail west towards the lake. It is about a half mile walk to the lake and back. The brushy areas along the trail provide nesting habitat for Bell's Vireo, Yellow-breasted Chat, Lark Sparrow, and Orchard Oriole. Follow the trail down to the lake. In dry years, this is a good spot to look for shorebirds. This is also a good spot to scan the lake for waterfowl in migration. Migrant passerines and sparrows are common in the weedy areas during migration.

Retrace your way to Iowa 415 and turn right (south). Drive 0.1 mi to the entrance to Big Creek State Park on your left. Enter the park and stop on the Big Creek dam (16). Pull off to the side of the road and scan the lake for loons, grebes, and other waterfowl. American Pipits are often found on this road.

Follow the park road east and north for 1.2 mi to the lakeshore loop (17). This section of the park road makes a loop along the lake and is a good spot from which to scan much of Big Creek Lake. Look for loons, grebes, ducks, gulls, and terns during migration.

Continue north on the park road for 0.7 mi to the Big Creek beach (18). Check the beach for shorebirds, gulls, and terns during migration. Sanderling, Caspian and Common terns, and American Pipit are regular on the beach.

Return to the park entrance at Iowa 415. Turn right (north) on Iowa 415 and drive 1.4 mi to NW 100th St. Turn right (north) on NW 100th St. and follow the road until it ends in a parking lot by the lake (19). Park at the end of NW 100th and follow the trail west along the lakeshore. Look in the numerous cedars for Long-eared, Short-eared, and Northern Saw-whet owls, usually present from October-March. One or two Northern Shrikes often winter along NW 100th St. The east spur of NW 100th St. provides a better look at much of the lake.

Again, return to Iowa 415 and turn right (north). Drive north and west for 2 mi and turn right (east) on NW 146th St. (20). Check the area immediately east of the church for Bell's Vireo in summer. A Northern Shrike often winters along NW 146th. Continue east to the T-intersection. To the north is a parking lot which overlooks the north end of Big Creek Lake. This area often has mudflats in fall, so check for shorebirds and herons. To the south of the T-intersection is another parking lot that overlooks another arm of the lake.

Return to Iowa 415 and turn right (north). Drive north for 0.6 mi and turn right (east) on NW 150th St. Follow this road east for 2 mi to the north end of Big Creek (21). The marshy areas to the south of the road are good for herons, ducks, and rails. When water levels are low, shorebirds may also concentrate here. A Northern Shrike sometimes winters in this area or along NW 150th St. to the east.

Return to Iowa 415. Cross over the highway and continue west on NW 150th St. for 2 mi to Iowa 17. Turn left (south) on Iowa 17 and proceed south for 2.2 mi to the bridge (22). Park on the shoulder of Iowa 17, just north of the bridge. This is an excellent place to view migrating hawks in spring and fall. The area east of the bridge often has extensive mudflats in summer and fall. All of the common shorebird species as well as Black-bellied Plover, American Avocet, Hudsonian Godwit, and Sanderling may be seen here. Hundreds and sometimes thousands of American White Pelicans may also congregate here in August and September. Other species that are regular here include Great Egret, Osprey, Caspian and Common terns, and Bonaparte's Gull.

Continue south on Iowa 17 for 2 mi and turn left (east) on NW 122nd Ave. Follow this road to a T-intersection and turn left (north) on NW 128th St. Follow



the road until it ends. Park and follow a trail north until you reach the lake (23). From here you can obtain a closer view of the mudflats at the north end of the lake. This access may also provide a closer view of the American White Pelicans that often congregate here.

Follow NW 128th St. south where it will bend east and become NW 118th Ave. Follow this road east for 1 mi to the entrance to Jester Park (24). A map of the park is on display at the entrance. The park road along the lake provides an excellent vantage point from which to scan the water. The overlook from Camping Area #4 also provides a good vantage point. In fall, large numbers of waterfowl and gulls often congregate on the lake here. Look for less common species such as Oldsquaw, scoters, and Bonaparte's Gull. Several large pine groves in the northern section of the park may have an occasional Northern Saw-whet Owl or Red-breasted Nuthatch in winter.

From the Jester Park entrance, follow a paved road that winds south and east and eventually becomes NW 107th St. Follow NW 107th St. south to NW Beaver Dr. and turn left (east). Drive east for 0.4 mi and turn left (east) onto a gravel road, just north of the blacktop that goes across the lake toward Polk City. Follow the gravel road east toward the lake and park in the lot at the end (25). This is a good area from which to scan the middle section of the lake. A Northern Shrike sometimes winters along the road to the parking lot. The cedars along the road may have a wintering Long-eared, Short-eared, or Northern Saw-whet owl.

Return to NW Beaver and turn left (south). Follow this road south for 1.8 mi to the entrance to Acorn Valley Recreation Area (26). This area is usually unproductive, except in fall when large numbers of ducks and gulls congregate on the lake near here. Normally the gate is locked at that season and you must park at the entrance and walk back to the lake.

Return to NW Beaver and turn left (south). Drive south for 0.5 mi to Walnut Ridge Recreation Area (27). This area is also unproductive most of the time, but occasionally large numbers of ducks and gulls will congregate along this side of the lake. Like Acorn Valley, the area is usually locked then and you must park and walk in to the lake.

Once again, return to NW Beaver and turn left (south). Drive south for 1.4 mi to the entrance to Lakeview Recreation Area (28). Drive east to the parking lot at the end of the road and scan the lake for loons, grebes, ducks, and gulls during migration. Gulls and terns often roost on the rock jetty north of the parking lot. Bald Eagles roost in the trees to the north along the west shore of the lake, particularly in late fall. This stop completes the circuit of birding areas around the lake.

A recent development at Saylorville has been the construction of a bike trail along the east side of the lake. The bike trail extends from the Big Creek State Park beach (18) to the Visitor's Center (7), and then to City hall in Des Moines. The trail provides an interesting way to bird the Saylorville area.

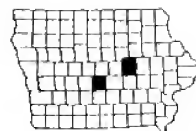
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# NEST SITES OF THE GREAT BLUE HERON IN CENTRAL IOWA

KARLA J. ZEUTENHORST



The Great Blue Heron is a common species throughout Iowa. However, only a few nesting colonies are known, mainly along the Mississippi River (Dinsmore et al. 1984). Great Blue Herons nest in a variety of sites ranging from the ground to low shrubs to tall trees (Bent 1926). In Iowa, they typically nest in tall trees, but few data are available. The objective of this study was to examine several factors pertaining to Great Blue Heron nest site selection.

## STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Two Great Blue Heron colonies were studied. One is located near the Saylorville Dam on the Des Moines River north of Des Moines. The other is at the Otter Creek Wildlife Area in Richland Township, Tama County along the Iowa River. At each colony, I collected data in a 100 by 20 meter transect through the nesting site. Within each transect, the following were recorded: number of individuals of each tree species, diameter of each tree at breast height, and tree height (estimated to the nearest foot). For those trees with heron nests, I recorded tree species, number of nests, and whether the tree was alive or dead.

## RESULTS

Only three tree species were found in the transects; American elm, silver maple, and cottonwood. However, the herons nested exclusively in live cottonwoods. The number of nests per tree ranged from 1-9 at Saylorville (mean = 3.7,  $n = 10$ ) and from 1-7 at Otter Creek (mean = 3.2,  $n = 9$ ). At both colonies, silver maple was the most abundant and cottonwood the least abundant tree species present (Table 1). At both colonies, cottonwoods were both the tallest and largest (by diameter) trees present (Table 2). Thus the herons appeared to select the largest rather than the most common trees available to them.

Table 1. Tree availability within a 100 by 20 meter transect through two Great Blue Heron colonies in Iowa.

tree species	Saylorville		Otter Creek	
	no.	%	no.	%
American elm	40	33.1	34	27.9
cottonwood	21	17.3	18	14.7
silver maple	60	49.6	70	57.4

Table 2. Average height and diameter at breast height of trees within a 100 by 20 meter transect through two Great Blue Heron colonies in Iowa.

tree species	height (ft)		diameter (cm)	
	Saylorville	Otter Creek	Saylorville	Otter Creek
American elm	45	22	69	15
cottonwood	63	69	96	88
silver maple	34	50	48	56

## DISCUSSION

Cottonwood trees appear to be important to Great Blue Herons as nest sites. The herons nested only in cottonwoods at both sites even though two other species were more abundant. Great blues commonly nest in cottonwoods elsewhere. In 1974, all 22 nests in a colony at Rathbun Reservoir were placed in 10 cottonwoods (Konermann et al. 1978). Cottonwoods ranked second only behind sycamores in nest site use in 57 Great Blue Heron colonies in Kansas (Andrews and Stephens 1956). In Alberta, cottonwoods were used by Great Blue Herons more often than any other species (Vermeer 1969). None of these studies considered the availability of various tree species. In 27 heron colonies along the Mississippi River between St. Louis and St. Paul, great blues nested in a variety of deciduous trees, most commonly the three species found in my study. However, only at a colony near Burlington were cottonwoods the main species used by great blues (Thompson and Landin 1978).

At both colonies, cottonwoods were the tallest trees available. Other studies have also noted that great blues tend to nest in the tallest trees available (Bent 1926, Andrews and Stephens 1956, Vermeer 1969, Bailey and Terman 1983). Great blues also nested in the largest trees available. Such trees probably are sturdier and less likely to be damaged in wind storms. Large trees also would have room for several nests, leading to the multiple nests I found in several trees in each colony. At both colonies, I noted that trees with single nests were most often found at the colonies' periphery. Another factor important in colony location is isolation from human disturbance. One of these colonies is in a site that is seldom disturbed while the other is close to heavy human traffic. However, the thick underbrush and poison ivy under the trees probably deter much human traffic. The strong tendency of Great Blue Herons to select the largest trees for their nest sites suggests that preservation of such trees is important to maintain their colonies.

I thank Ed Weiner for his help at the Otter Creek colony, Dr. Paul Wray for his assistance in identifying the trees, and Larry Zeutenhorst for help in collecting data.

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*Elton Fawks (left) with Terry Ingram, 22 January 1972. (Photo by Peter C. Petersen)*

## IN MEMORIAM--ELTON E. FAWKS

PETER C. PETERSEN

Longtime Iowa Ornithologists' Union member (since 1950) Elton Fawks passed away on 14 October 1989. A resident of East Moline and Moline, Illinois for most of his life, he participated in many Christmas Bird Counts along the Mississippi. He will be best remembered for being the first to realize we could better understand Bald Eagle reproductive success by keeping a careful record of the ratio of immature to adults among the wintering birds. His reports on this subject were contained in 24 articles in *Iowa Bird Life* between 1960 and 1985. The eagle research led to his work for strong pesticide control laws in Illinois enacted in the 1960s.

Elton was born on 20 January 1908 in Bogard, Missouri. He moved with his parents to East Moline when he was five years old and for many years lived on Campbell's Island in the Mississippi River. He owned a body shop supply business dealing chiefly in paint and at one time operated stores in both Moline and Davenport. He was active in the Kiwanis, rising to the position of state Lieutenant Governor. He was also President of the Illinois Izaak Walton League from 1962-64 and National Director from 1976-80. He served on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Audubon Society from 1953-77. In 1960 he was the Illinois Audubon Society Conservationist of the Year and in 1970, Bald Eagle "Man of the Year."

In 1980 he presented his eagle data and correspondence to Western Illinois University in Macomb where it has been cataloged by Dr. Tom Dunstan. His publications included co-authorship with me of the first two editions of "A Field List of Birds of the Tri-City (later Quad-City) Region" in 1961 and 1977, compilation of "Bird Finding in Illinois" in 1975, and co-authorship with Terrance Ingram of "Winter Birding along the Mississippi River" in 1977. In 1983 he produced a limited-edition autobiography "Elton Fawks and Bald Eagles" with 200 copies printed.

A final honor was bestowed this February when the Illinois Department of Conservation renamed a 174-acre refuge near Lock 14 on the Mississippi River. Now called the Elton E. Fawks Bald Eagle Refuge, it shows that a birder can have an impact on the environment. Elton Fawks will be greatly missed by his many friends.

235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803.

# FIELD REPORTS - FALL 1989

CARL J. BENDORF

## WEATHER

August was a little cool and continued the dry pattern of recent months, being the 9th consecutive month with below average precipitation. The only notable severe weather occurred on the 5th when a fast-moving thunderstorm complex swept out of Nebraska and cut a wide swath of damage in central Iowa; wind gusts were 50-80 mph.

September broke the dry spell with heavy rains during the first 10 days. Flooding was widespread early in the month in SW and WC Iowa. The rest of the month was below average in rainfall. This was the coolest September since 1975.

October was a month of wide temperature fluctuations; it was 88 at Glenwood on the 11th but only 12 at Hawarden on the 20th. Very little rain fell statewide, and the first measurable snow fell over NC Iowa on 30-31 October.

November was the driest and 3rd coldest November since 1976. Adding to the chill were wind speeds about 4% above normal. Large masses of Arctic air on the 15-18th and 28-29th pulled the average temperatures below normal. On the other extreme, some very mild air entered SE Iowa giving temperatures up to 77 on the 13th at Keokuk.

Table 1. Mean Temperature and Precipitation with Deviation from Normal.

	temperature, F mean (deviation)	precipitation, inches mean (deviation)
August	71.8 (-0.3)	3.58 (-0.52)
September	61.1 (-2.4)	4.74 (+1.32)
October	52.6 (-0.1)	1.88 (-0.42)
November	34.1 (-3.1)	0.28 (-1.23)

## GENERAL TRENDS

Very dry conditions focused most of the birding activity to larger lakes and reservoirs. Overall, waterfowl migration was very poor except for geese. In contrast, scoters were early and rather numerous. Numbers of migrating hawks were relatively low.

Shorebird migration seemed delayed, and nearly all reports came from larger bodies of water (no small wet areas this year). No fewer than 11 shorebird species set some sort of late record this year. Gull migration was dull in total numbers but spectacular in variety.

All the regular thrush species were reported in the usual small numbers but were mentioned by more observers than in recent years. Vireos were virtually undetected, and warblers were found in relatively low numbers although a few species were either early or late. Sparrows were mostly on time. Reports of winter finches were mixed; few were reported but White winged Crossbills made a big showing.

## UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

An astounding 17 accidental species were reported (plus jaeger species) during the period with 7 of them being potential additions to the state list. They were Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Black-shouldered Kite, Harris' Hawk, Black Rail, Red Knot, Red Phalarope, jaeger species, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Common Black-headed Gull, California Gull, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Sabine's Gull, Royal Tern, and Western Wood Pewee. Casual species reported included ibis species, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, Whimbrel, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, Pine Grosbeak, and House Finch.

## SPECIES DATA

\* = documented; record early/late dates are given in [].

**Red-throated Loon:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee

**Pacific Loon:** Reports from two locations will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Common Loon:** One on 26 Aug at Rathbun Res. (RLC) may have been the same bird that summered there; largest numbers by far were at Saylorville Res. with a peak of 95 on 2 Nov (SJD). 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 26 Nov (DCP) was the only report away from major lakes and reservoirs.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** The only reports were 50 on 29 August at L. Manawa (TB) and 80 on 17 Sep at Spirit L. (THK, FLM, RCe).

**Horned Grebe:** First, peak, and last reports were all from Saylorville Res.: 1 on 8 Oct (BEn), 44 on 4 Nov and 2 on 28 Nov (SJD). The only other location with more than several birds was in Warren Co. with 12 on 4 Nov (SJS).

**Eared Grebe:** Very scarce this fall with only 1-2 reported from four central Iowa locations: Morse L., Wright Co., on 4 Sep (SJD), Big Creek L. on 12 Sep (SJD), Ventura M. on 1 Oct (JLW), and Saylorville Res. on 8-11 Oct and 6 Nov (SJD, JJD, AJ, BEn).

**Western Grebe:** Reported only from Saylorville Res. where the first was found on 13 Oct (BEn, JF); 1-3 were seen through 5 Nov (m.ob.).

**American White Pelican:** Detected in much smaller numbers than last year; Union Slough N.W.R. held very little water and a peak of only 50 birds stopped there on 22 Aug (MCK); Saylorville Res. fared better with 2,805 on 10 Sep (SJD, RAI, PAI); other peak reports were 560 at Ventura M. on 23 Aug (Ted LaGrange fide JLH), 850 on 4 Sep at Elm L. (SJD), and 400 on 15-16 Sep in Dickinson Co. (RLC, et al.). Singles were still at Red Rock Res. on 28 Nov (BBr, GB) and Saylorville Res. on 30 Nov (SJD). These are the two latest records except for wintering birds.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Reported in average numbers with peaks of 1,690 at Saylorville Res. on 5 Oct (SJD), 1,600 at Red Rock Res. on 22 Oct (AJ), and 1,500 in Pottawattamie Co. during the first week of Nov (BPd).

**American Bittern:** A single bird was n. of Burlington on 3, 7 Sep (JF, THK, RTe); another was in Mills Co. on 12 Oct (DoR).

**Great Blue Heron:** 94 were chasing the few fish left in very low water at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 Aug (MCK), and 47 were at Ventura M. on 15 Aug (JLH).

**Great Egret:** Ted LaGrange counted 70 at Ventura M. on 23 Aug (fide JLH), 58 were at Clear L. on 4 Sep (SJD), and 60 more were in Des Moines and Louisa counties on 7 Sep (THK, RTe); 18 were still at Runnells Game. A. on 1 Nov (BBr, GB).

**Snowy Egret:** Singles in Fremont Co. on 13 Aug (RKM) and n. of Burlington on 12 Sep (\*JF) were the only ones reported.

**Little Blue Heron:** Single immature birds were seen at Saylorville Res. on 4 Aug (JSi) and 9 Sep (SJD, BEn). An adult was at Ventura M. on 3 Sep (JLW).

**Cattle Egret:** One was at Credit Is. on 25 Oct (PCP); 4 were at Saylorville Res. on 28 Oct (SJD, PAI, RAI); another was near IPL Ponds on 30 Oct (BPd, AGG).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 13 were at Badger Creek S.P., Madison Co., on 30 Aug (EuA, EIA).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 12 were reported from Union Slough N.W.R. on 7 Aug (EuA, EIA); 3 immatures were n. of Burlington on 3 Sep (JF).

**Ibis species:** 1 was seen flying with Great Egrets on 4 Sep at Ventura M. (JLW details).

**Tundra Swan:** The usual flock was at Lock and Dam 9 with 96 birds on 24 Nov (MPr, RKM, et al.); 1 was at Spirit L. on 18 Nov (LaVonne Foote fide DCH) and may have been the same bird

- found injured nearby on 27 Nov (Tim Waltz, Rory Martinson fide DCH); 2 ad. were at Riverton A. on 21-22 Nov (SJD).
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** Only two reports with 24 on 23, 29 Oct at Runnells Game A. (AJ) and an amazing 3,000 at Riverton A. on 28 Oct (Carl Priebe fide SJD).
- Snow Goose:** 2 "blue-phase" birds were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 7 Aug (MPR, et al.); 550,000 birds at DeSoto N.W.R. on 27 Nov was considered many even for that refuge (George Gage and refuge staff fide JLH).
- Ross' Goose:** 1 was found at Rice L. on 15 Oct (SJD) [2nd earliest]; another single was picked out by size from a flying Snow Goose flock at Saylorville Res. on 4 Nov (SJD, BEN, MPR); 9 birds at Riverton A. on 21 Nov (1 shot on 22 Nov) (SJD) were more than expected.
- Canada Goose:** Rather large numbers stopped in NC Iowa during Oct with 5,000 on the 15th at Rice L. (SJD) and a combined 21,000 at several locations in Worth Co. on the 27th (Greg Hanson fide JLH).
- Wood Duck:** 20 were seen in Dickinson Co. on 17 Sep(RLC); two pair were still in Sioux Co. on 30 Nov (JVD).
- Green-winged Teal:** 600 were at Riverton A. on 21 Nov (SJD).
- American Black Duck:** The peak report was 9 on 30 Nov at Big Creek L. (SJD).
- Gadwall:** 500 were at Saylorville Res. on 23 Oct (SJD), and 125 were at Rathbun Res. on 4 Nov (RLC).
- Canvasback:** This species normally gathers by the thousands in the Keokuk Pool but few were seen here during Nov (RCe). The only other mention was of 4 on 6 Nov and 10 on 26 Nov at IPL Ponds (TB).
- Greater Scaup:** 1-4 were seen at Saylorville Res. from 3-11 Nov (PCP, et al.), 3 were picked out at Riverton A. on 21 Nov (SJD), 3 more were at Red Rock Res. on 23 Nov (AJ), and 4 were at Credit Is. on 24 Nov (PCP, et al.); 1 was still on Big Creek L. on 26 Nov (SJD).
- Lesser Scaup:** First were 3 at Saylorville Res. on 3 Sep (SJD); 6,000 birds were estimated to be there on 3 Nov (SJD), and 1,000 were at Rathbun Res. the next day (RLC).
- Oldsquaw:** Single female and male birds were detected between 28 Oct and 18 Nov at Saylorville Res. and Big Creek L. (SJD, m.ob.); 1-2 birds were reported from IPL Ponds from 29 Oct (\*BPa/LPa) through 19 Nov (AGG); 1 more was in Mills Co. 23-27 Nov (DoR; BPa).
- Black Scoter:** All three scoters showed up very early this year. The first Black Scoters were 2 at Big Creek L. on 16 Oct(SJD) [record earliest]. Others showed up at nearby Saylorville Res. on 28 Oct (AJ) with a peak of 5 on 5 Nov (SJD, BEN); 1 lingered through 11 Nov (SJD, m.ob.). Single birds were also found at IPL Ponds on 29 Oct (\*BPa/LPa), Coralville Res. on 30 Oct (JF), L. Manawa on 31 Oct (TB, BPa), and Red Rock Res. on 6 Nov (AJ). All reports were of female or immature birds.
- Surf Scoter:** 1-3 were at Saylorville Res. from 5 Oct [ties 2nd earliest] through 5 Nov (SJD, m.ob.); single birds were found at Rice L. on 15 Oct (SJD), Big Creek L. on 16 Oct (SJD), L. Manawa on 31 Oct (TB, BPa), and near Ames on 2 Nov (fide SJD). All were apparently female or immature birds.
- White-winged Scoter:** 2 were at Badger Creek S.P. on 15 Oct (EuA, EIA) [third earliest]; also on the early side was 1 female or immature at Big Creek L. on 16 Oct (SJD); 11 birds at Clear L. on 30 Oct (JLH) is a large number for Iowa. Between 30 Oct and 19 Nov from 1-3 birds were found at Coralville Res. (JF), Saylorville Res. (SJD), IPL Ponds (DoR, m.ob.), and in Linn Co. (\*RPi).
- Common Goldeneye:** The peak was 800 on 23 Nov at Red Rock Res. (AJ).
- Barrow's Goldeneye:** This accidental species has been popping up the past few years in SW Iowa, and this year a male was seen at IPL Ponds on 12-15 Nov (\*AGG, BPa, LPa details).
- Hooded Merganser:** A big movement was detected during early November with up to 419 counted at Saylorville Res. on 3 Nov (SJD et al.); 38 at L. Manawa on the same date were more than usual (BPa). On 5 Nov 147 were still at Saylorville Res. (SJS), and 60 were on L. Macbride (THK).
- Common Merganser:** The peak number was 3,500 at both Red Rock Res. on 23 Nov (AJ) and Saylorville Res. on 26 Nov (SJD); 1-2 present all fall were still at Rathbun Res. on 30 Nov (RLC).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** The peak report was 60 at L. Macbride on 5 Nov (THK).
- Turkey Vulture:** The last was 1 on 22 Oct at Saylorville Res. (AJ).
- Osprey:** 8 were counted between Camanche and Sabula on 24 Sep (PCP).
- Black-shouldered Kite:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.
- Bald Eagle:** 1 imm. was near a summer nest site in Jackson Co. on 11 Aug (PCP); the peak report was 3 ad. and 7 imm. at the Runnells Game A. on 25 Oct (JSi).



- Northern Harrier:** 10 were seen at Rathbun Res. on 5 Nov with 7 in one field (JSi, AJ).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Adding to a handful of summer records, an immature bird seen briefly at close range and heard calling in Hardin Co. on 16 Jul was near the site of single adults on 5, 18 May (\*DJC). A total of 120 birds was reported in 44 hours of counting at Grammer Grove between 19 Sep and 4 Oct with a peak of 35 on 28 Sep (BPr, et al.); 8 were at Stone P. on 14 Oct (BH).
- Cooper's Hawk:** 28 were counted in 44 hours of observation at Grammer Grove between 19 Sep and 4 Oct with a peak of 7 on 28 Sep (BPr, MPr); only single birds were reported elsewhere.
- Northern Goshawk:** 1 was at L. Okoboji on 16 Sep (RLC) [ties 3rd earliest]. Other single birds were at Badger Creek S.P. on 5 Oct (EuA, EIA), at Big Creek L. on 18 Nov (PAL, RAI), and an adult at Rathbun Res. on 25 Nov (THK, FLM, RCe).
- Harris' Hawk:** An adult was observed s. of Blairstown, Benton Co., on 10, 14 Sep (\*JF, \*THK photo); the Records Committee will probably focus on whether this was a genuine vagrant from its normal range.
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** An adult that returned on 30 Nov to the same location near Polk City for the third consecutive winter (SJD) was the only one reported.
- Broad-winged Hawk:** Detected in relatively small numbers this fall: the peak of 120 on 13 Sep in Jones Co. was one of the few kettles seen all season (MCK); daily observations totaling 44 hours between 19 Sep and 4 Oct at Grammer Grove yielded only 25 birds (BPr); 50 birds in a kettle over Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City at 9:30 a.m. were gone 15 minutes later (CJB).
- Swainson's Hawk:** Singles were reported from 6 western and central Iowa locations.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** 32 were counted between 19 Sep and 4 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr), and 36 were seen in SE Iowa on 25 Nov (THK, FLM, RCe). Details were given for the following singles: Knider's type birds on 8 Oct at Runnells Game A. and 16-17 Oct in Warren Co. (AJ), and Harlan's type birds on 9 Nov in Tama Co. (MPr) and on 25 Nov in Marshall Co. (MPr, BPr). Another bird in Polk Co. on 12 Nov was judged a Harlan's or dark phase (AJ).
- Golden Eagle:** Immatures were at White Pine Hollow on 25 Oct (\*MR), in Cherokee Co. on 28 Oct (\*DBi), and at DeSoto N.W.R. on 4 Nov (BH details). The usual 1 or 2 birds were seen in Allamakee Co. in late November (m.ob.).
- American Kestrel:** Only one was seen during 44 hours from 19 Sep to 4 Oct at Grammer Grove (BPr); 20 were reported from SE Iowa on 25 Nov (THK, FLM, RCe).
- Merrill:** 1 was in Warren Co. by 30 Aug (AJ details) [2nd earliest]; 1 or 2 were reported from 16 other widespread locations between 5 Sep and 28 Nov (m.ob.). Complete documentation of records after the 1st week in Sep are not necessary but some details of identification are very helpful.
- Peregrine Falcon:** 1 immature at L. Manawa on 29 Aug was thought to be from the nearby Omaha re introduction project (TB, BPa); 1 or 2 birds were reported from at least 10 locations between 2 Sep and 27 Oct (m.ob.), all in central Iowa.
- Prairie Falcon:** Single birds were seen periodically at Saylorville Res. from 9 Oct to 3 Nov (EuA, EIA, BEn details, \*JF), 1 was in Dallas Co. on 14 Oct (\*RKM), and 1 at Riverton A. on 22 Nov spent more than an hour buzzing the thousands of ducks and geese (SJD details); yet another was in Hardin Co. on 28 Nov (MPr).
- Gray Partridge:** One came to a backyard feeder near Iowa City on 15 Nov (JF).
- Northern Bobwhite:** 8 were in Stone P. on 8 Oct (BH); 15 were found at Fairfield on 22 Oct and 10 were in Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 12 Nov (DCP).
- Black Rail:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.
- Virginia Rail:** 4 ad., 2 juv., and 3 black chicks were observed in 100 yards of channel at Union Slough N.W.R. on 15 Aug (MCK); another was at IPL Ponds on 8 Nov (DoR) [3rd latest].
- Sora:** 1 was in Montgomery Co. on 12 Nov (DoR, BJR) [3rd latest].
- American Coot:** Several moderate concentrations were reported: 900 were at Spirit L. on 17 Sep (RCe, THK, FLM) and 800 were in Warren Co. on 31 Oct (SJS).
- Sandhill Crane:** 3 were at Otter Creek M. on 20 Sep (MPr, BPr); this would be early for migrants. 1 imm. was at Rush L. on 25 Oct (DCH), a single bird was near Spirit L. on 14, 19 Nov (fide JLH), and another was seen standing on ice in Guthrie Co. on 24 Nov (Jon Judson fide JJD).
- Black-bellied Plover:** Peak reports were all from mid Oct with 110 at Spirit L. (DCH) and 25 at Dan Green Sl. (MMB), all on the 11th, and 18 at Clear L. on the 15th (SJD). Only 1 or 2 were reported elsewhere.
- Lesser Golden-Plover:** The peak report was 490 on 12 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Semipalmated Plover:** 64 birds were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 Aug (MCK); 1 at Red Rock Res. on 28 Nov (\*BBr) was the record latest by more than 3 weeks.

**Piping Plover:** 1 was at the usual location at IPL Ponds on 13 Aug (RKM); a juv. was at Saylorville Res. on 8 Sep (SJD, BB).

**American Avocet:** The largest numbers were in SW Iowa in August with 12 at Forney L. on the 13th (RKM) and 15 at IPL Ponds on the 27th (TB, BPa, LPa).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** An amazing 176 at Runnells Game A. on 29 Oct were distinguished from Lessers by their longer upturned bills and their call notes (AJ).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** On 6 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R., 2,000 birds were estimated to be present (MCK); 100 were at Runnells Game A. on 12-13 Aug (AJ). A bird still at Riverton A. on 21-22 Nov was identified by small size, short, needle-like bill, and soft call note (SJD) [2nd latest].

**Solitary Sandpiper:** 86 were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 Aug (MCK), and 50 were at Runnells Game A. on 12 Aug (AJ); 1 was still at Saylorville Res. on 11 Oct (AJ) [ties record latest].

**Willet:** 2 at Red Rock Res. on 26 Aug (MPr, et al.) and 1 the next day at Saylorville Res. (JJD, BEn) were the only reports.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** 1 lingered in Warren Co. until 31 Oct (SJS details) [third latest].

**Upland Sandpiper:** 1 near DeSoto N.W.R. on 9 Aug (BPa, RW, TB) was the only report.

**Whimbrel:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Ruddy Turnstone:** The only report was of 1 at Saylorville Res from 4-7 Sep (BEn, m.ob.).

**Red Knot:** 1 still partly in alternate plumage was at Union Slough N.W.R. on 31 Aug (\*MCK); 1-2 birds were observed by many at Saylorville Res. from 3-6 Sep (\*SJD, \*RCe, \*JJD, \*RKM, \*AJ, \*JF, \*MPr, \*MT).

**Sanderling:** All reports were from central and western Iowa with a peak of 25 at Saylorville Res. on 5 Sep (BEn); 1 lingered there until 11 Nov (RAI, PAI) [record latest].

**Western Sandpiper:** Reports peaked during the first week in Sep; 22 birds at Runnells Game A. on the 3rd (JSi details) is a large number for Iowa.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Unusual in fall, 5 were in Cerro Gordo Co. on 4 Sep (JLW details), and 1 was at Clear L. until 15 Oct (SJD details) [ties 2nd latest].

**Baird's Sandpiper:** The only report of more than a few was 27 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 31 Aug (MCK); 1 stayed at IPL Ponds until 12 Nov (BPa/LPa details) [3rd latest]; 2 more tarried until 26 Nov at Saylorville Res. (BEn details) [record latest].

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Union Slough N.W.R. held 5,000 birds on 6-7 Aug (MCK, EuA, EIA).

**Dunlin:** The peak was 13 on 9 Nov at Runnells Game A. (AJ); the last was 1 at Red Rock Res. on 26 Nov (THK, RCe, FLM).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** 420 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 15 Sep (MCK) is a very large concentration for Iowa; 10 were still at Saylorville Res. on 28 Oct (AJ details) [record latest].

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** There were more reports than usual with a peak of 26 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 4 Sep (MCK); 1 at Saylorville Res. on 24 Sep (SJD) might have been the same one still there on 13 Oct (BEn) [ties record latest].

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** The peak was 20 juv. birds at Coralville Res. on 20 Aug (THK); 1 repeatedly called "tu-tu-tu" at Union Slough N.W.R. on 15 Sep (MCK) [ties 2nd latest].

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 80 birds, presumably this species by date, were at Spirit L. on 11 Oct (DCH); 44 were "keeking" on 17 Oct in Warren Co. (SJS) and 63 birds (juv. feather patterns seen on closer ones) were at Runnells Game A. on 29 Oct (AJ); 1 juv. was still at L. Macbride on 11 Nov (THK details) [3rd latest].

**Common Snipe:** 60 were observed in Kossuth Co. on 8 Oct (MCK), and 23 more were in Warren Co. on 27 Oct (SJS).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** The peak report was of 16 birds on 22 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** Peak number was 9 birds on 22 Aug at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Red Phalarope:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Jaeger species:** 2 strong-flying all brown gull-shaped birds with white at the base of the primaries were briefly seen as they passed over Algona on 29 Oct (\*MCK).

**Laughing Gull:** Something pushed a few into Iowa this fall: a juvenile bird was well studied at Red Rock Res. from 19 Aug (\*BH) through 26 Aug (\*EuA/EIA, \*JF, \*PCP, \*AJ, \*THK photo, \*RCe); another was found at IPL Ponds on 27 Aug (\*BPa/LPa); 2 birds, a 2nd year and a juv., were discovered n. of Burlington on the Miss. R. on 9 Sep (\*THK photo). These would be the first state records.

**Franklin's Gull:** Large numbers again passed through central and western Iowa; 3,000 were at Clear L. on 15 Sep (THK, FLM, RCe) and 6,000 were there a month later on 15 Oct (SJD); 2,000 were at L. Manawa on 13 Oct (BPa, AGG); 8,900 were at Saylorville Res. on 10 Oct and 2 were still there on 29 Nov (SJD).

**Little Gull:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Common Black-headed Gull:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** This species showed up early but was very scarce after that; 1 was at Bays Branch on 5 Aug (AJ details) [record earliest]; the peak was only 71 at Saylorville Res. on 8 Oct (SJD).

**Ring-billed Gull:** The biggest concentration was again at the central Iowa reservoirs: at Saylorville, 600 on 21 Sep increased to 2,200 by 8 Nov and 5,100 at the end of the period on 30 Nov (SJD); 5,000 more were at Red Rock on 18 Nov (TB, et al.); and 1,500 at Credit Is. on 24 Nov (PCP) was the largest number elsewhere.

**California Gull:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Herring Gull:** 500 were at Credit Is. on 24 Nov (THK), and 1,100 had congregated at Saylorville Res. by 30 Nov (SJD).

**Thayer's Gull:** Single 1st-winter birds were described from IPL Ponds on 29-30 Oct (\*AGG, \*BPa) and 5 Nov (\*WRS); at Red Rock Res. on 6 (\*AJ) and 8 (\*BPr) Nov; at Credit Is. on 24 Nov (\*PCP); and at Saylorville Res. on 28 Nov (\*SJD); 2 more 1st-winter birds were seen at Lock and Dam 19 on 24-25 Nov (\*RCe).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Reports from 2 locations will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Glaucous Gull:** A 1st-year bird was at Red Rock Res. on 18-19 Nov (BPa/LPa details, TB, RLC) [record earliest]; up to 3 birds, two 1st winter and one 2nd or 3rd winter, were at Saylorville Res. on 28-30 Nov (SJD, RKM).

**Sabine's Gull:** Single juv. birds were detected at two unexpected locations within a 2-day span: 1 in Fremont Co. on 24 Sep was sitting along the roadside picking on a road-killed Barn Swallow (\*JMB) and another was at Diamond L. in Poweshiek Co. on 25 Sep (\*DK).

**Caspian Tern:** The peak was 381 on 12 Sep at Saylorville Res. and the last was there on 16 Oct (SJD); 80 were on the Mississippi R. n. of Burlington on 9 Sep (THK photo, RTE).

**Royal Tern:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Common Tern:** Only a few were reported with the first 1 on 5 Aug at Bays Branch (AJ details); the peak was 3 ad. on 12 Sep at Saylorville Res., and the last was 1 juv. there on 8 Oct (SJD details).

**Forster's Tern:** Peak reports were 97 at Saylorville Res. on 20 Aug (AJ), 83 on 12 Sep (SJD) at Saylorville Res., and 46 in Lee Co. on 30 Sep (RCe); 1 juv. was at Saylorville Res. on 2 Nov (SJD) [3rd latest].

**Least Tern:** Single birds were at Bays Branch on 4 Aug (JSi), at Red Rock Res. on 2 Sep (RLC), and at Clear L. on 3 Sep (Curt Nelson fide JLW).

**Black Tern:** 200 were at Brenton's Sl., Polk Co., on 5 Aug (EuA, EIA, PAI, RAI); 50 were in Des Moines Co. on 7 Sep (THK, RTE).

**Barn Owl:** 1 in Webster Co. on 21 Sep had been there all summer (SJD).

**Long-eared Owl:** The only report was of 2 at a regular spot: Big Creek L. on 18 Nov (SJD).

**Short-eared Owl:** 1 was picked up dead (but not very fresh) in Fremont Co. on 11 Aug (DoR).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** The first was 1 on 19 Oct at Big Creek L. (SJD); 2 were at Coralville Res. on 29 Oct, and another was in Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 23 Nov (JF); 4 were discovered in Hardin Co. on 26 Nov (MPR, BPR).

**Common Nighthawk:** 300 in Algona on 26 Aug comprised "the biggest flocks I've ever seen" (MCK); the migration through Sioux Co. during the 2nd half of Sep was "spectacular" (JVD); 300 were seen in Polk Co. on 18 Sep (SJD).

**Whip-poor-will:** 2 were still in Stone P. on 19 Sep (BH, JP).

**Chimney Swift:** 2,291 birds were counted in 10 minutes going down the Fairfield High School chimney; this was considered locally a late date for a peak number (DCP).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 2 fledglings on 9 Aug in Story Co. were a front-page photo story in a local newspaper (HZ); up to 7 birds at one time were seen in a Boone Co. yard from 16 Aug to 23 Sep (SL).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** Peak movement may have been at the end of Sep with 3 birds in both Lee Co. (RCe) and Story Co. (SJD, LPH) on the 30th.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** 3 were at Grammer Grove 2-9 Sep (MPR, BPR); the last was 1 in Algona on 26 Sep (MCK).

**Western Wood-Pewee:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Eastern Wood-Pewee:** 2 ad. were feeding a young bird on 9 Sep at L. Ahquabi (JSi).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** 1-2 birds were seen at Grammer Grove on 18, 27 Aug, and 10 Sep (MPR, BPR); 1 was at Ledges S.P. on 27 Aug (PAI, RAI); another was in Warren Co. on 28 Aug (AJ); and 2 were near Liscomb on 31 Aug (BPR).

**Alder Flycatcher:** 1 bird was calling "fee-bee-o" at Union Slough N.W.R. on 1 Aug (MPR, BPR), 2 more were also calling at DeSoto N.W.R. on 9 Aug (TB, BP, RW), and 1 was in Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 11 Aug (JF).

**Willow Flycatcher:** The last was 1 in Mills Co. on 4 Sep (DoR).

**Least Flycatcher:** Only a few singles were reported.

**Western Kingbird:** 1 was in Warren Co. on 5-7 Aug (\*AJ); another was in Guthrie Co., also on 5 Aug (EuA, EIA, PAI, RAI).

**Eastern Kingbird:** A flock of 30 was in Marion Co. on 23 Aug (THK).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 1 was reported in Washington Co. on 6 Aug (Chris Caster fide JF). It is not known whether this was a different bird from the one near Crawfordsville this summer.

**Tree Swallow:** 4,000 were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 6 Aug (MCK), and 6,000 were at Red Rock Res. on 24 Sep (SJD); 1,000 were reported from Runnells Game A. on 8 Oct (AJ).

**Cliff Swallow:** About 275 birds roosted on wood shingles of farm buildings in Cass Co. on 27-28 Aug (MPe).

**American Crow:** At least 5,000 birds were in the traditional Ames roost in late Nov (JJD).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** More reports than usual started with 2 in Sioux Co. on 30 Aug; the peak was 10 in Kossuth Co. on 15 Sep (MCK).

**Carolina Wren:** 3 birds fledged from a nest in Polk Co. on 20 Aug (PAI, RAI); the recovery of this species continues with reports of 1-3 birds from the following counties: Scott, Van Buren, Lee, Mills, Dubuque, Jasper, Johnson, and Allamakee.

**Sedge Wren:** 45 singing birds were counted on 23 Aug in a restored prairie next to Saylorville Res. (JJD); 1 was still at L. Manawa on 26 Oct (TB) [3rd latest].

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** The first were 2 at Grammer Grove on 23 Sep (MPR, RCe, JCe); the peak was 30 in Kossuth Co. on 21 Oct (MCK).

**Eastern Bluebird:** Several observers commented on the relative abundance this fall: 18 were in Plymouth Co. on 24 Sep (BH), 57 were counted in Polk and Warren counties on 7 Oct (AJ), 26 were in Kossuth Co. on 24 Oct (MCK), and 14 in Iowa City on 28 Oct were all in one small tree (CJB).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** 1 was eating fruit in Scott Co. on 13 Oct (Catherine Beeks details fide PCP) [2nd earliest].

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** The last were 2 in Brookside P., Ames on 13 Oct (PM).

**Swainson's Thrush:** The peak was 4 on 9 Sep at Grammer Grove (MPR).

**Hermits Thrush:** The first was 1 in Ames on 30 Sep (SJD, LPH); 1 or 2 were mentioned from 5 other locations through 29 Oct.

**Varied Thrush:** 2 reports of single birds: at Ames on 25 Nov (George Clark details fide JJD) and at Pleasantville on 29 Nov (EuA, EIA).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Single birds were at Riverton A. on 13 Aug (RKM) and in Benton Co. on 10 Sep (CJB, THK, JF).

**American Pipit:** The peak report was 55 birds on 21 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Northern Shrike:** 1 was already in Cherokee Co. by 1 Oct (DBi details) [record earliest]; 2 were at Badger Creek S.P. on 10 Nov, and 2 more were at Big Creek L. on 17 Nov (EuA, EIA); 1 was in Washington Co. on 20 Nov (DCP details).

**Solitary Vireo:** The peak was 20 in Brookside P. on 9 Sep (PM); very few others were mentioned.

**Warbling Vireo:** 12 were at Red Rock Res. on 2 Sep (RLC); the last was still singing on 26 Sep in Warren Co. (AJ).

**Philadelphia Vireo:** The only reports were singles at Grammer Gr. on 27 Aug and 9 Sep (MPR, BPR).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** Very few reports with a peak of 12 on 4 Sep at Grammer Grove (MPR, EuA, EIA).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** Detected at only two locations with 1-3 birds at Grammer Grove on 18, 27 Aug and 4 Sep (MPR, et al.); 1 was at Ledges S.P. on 27 Aug (PAI, RAI).

**Tennessee Warbler:** Mentioned at only three locations with a peak of 5 on 2 Sep in Warren Co. (AJ).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first was 1 on 27 Aug in Warren Co. (AJ); "numbers" moved through Sioux Co. 10-12 Oct (JVD).

**Nashville Warbler:** The peak was 6 on 2 Sep in Warren Co. (AJ).

**Northern Parula:** 1 at Grammer Grove on 4 Sep (MPr, EuA, EIA) and another in Warren Co. on 19 Sep (AJ) were the only ones reported.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** The peaks were 8 on 24 Aug in Kossuth Co. (MCK) and 10 at Grammer Grove on 9 Sep (MPr).

**Magnolia Warbler:** Mentioned at only two locations with a peak of 3 on 27 Aug at Grammer Grove (MPr, BPr).

**Cape May Warbler:** Singles were in Dallas Co. on 2, 10 Sep (RKM), in Mason City on 5 Sep (JLW), in Ames on 10 Sep (SJD), and at Saylorville Res. on 11 Sep (RKM) and 23-24 Sep (SJD, PAI, RAI); 2 birds were enjoyed by the fall IOU conventioners at High L. 15-17 Sep (EuA, et al.); 5 birds were reported from Warren Co. on 18 Oct (SJS).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** An adult male was in Marshall Co. on 27 Aug (RRS details) [3rd earliest]; other adult males were at Saylorville Res. on 9 Sep (BEn), Mason City on 14 Sep (JLW), and in Perry on 18 Sep (RKM).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** The peak report was 100 on 22 Sep in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** 1 was in Kossuth Co. on 13 Aug (MCK) [ties 2nd earliest].

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 1 was in Warren Co. on 12 Aug (AJ details) [ties 3rd earliest].

**Pine Warbler:** 1 at Saylorville Res. on 6 Aug (\*RKM) [record earliest] broke the previous record by 18 days; other singles were in Warren Co. on 27-29 Aug (\*AJ) [ties 3rd earliest] and at Brookside P. on 10 Sep (PM details).

**Palm Warbler:** 1 or 2 reported at 4 locations.

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** 1 was in Booneville on 4 Aug (EuA, EIA) [record earliest], 20 were counted in Brookside P. on 27 Aug (PM), and 1 was near Iowa City on 23 Oct (JF) [2nd latest].

**Blackpoll Warbler:** 2 were in Kossuth Co. on 20 Aug (MCK) [3rd earliest].

**Black-and-white Warbler:** The peak reports were 11 on 9 Sep at Brookside P. (PM) and 10 on 13 Sep at Grammer Grove (MPr).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** A male was at Grammer Grove on 9 Sep (MPr details) [2nd latest].

**Ovenbird:** The peak was 15 on 9 Sep at Brookside P. (PM).

**Connecticut Warbler:** 1 was at Perry on 2 Sep (RKM details); another was at Grammer Grove on 13 Sep (MPr details).

**Mourning Warbler:** 1 or 2 reported from 6 locations.

**Hooded Warbler:** A summering bird in Lee Co. was still present on 5 Aug (RCe).

**Wilson's Warbler:** The peak report was 6 on 23 Aug at Algona (MCK).

**Canada Warbler:** The peak number was 6 on 2 Sep at Brookside P. (PM).

**Summer Tanager:** 4 were still in Mills Co. on 16 Sep (DoR).

**Blue Grosbeak:** A male stayed in Mills Co. until 16 Sep (DoR).

**Dickcissel:** Single birds were coming to feeders in Scott Co. on 13 Nov (PCP) and Marshalltown on 24 Nov (Betty Savage details fide BPr).

**Chipping Sparrow:** 28 were in a yard near Booneville on 24 Aug (EuA, EIA); 8 were in Fairfield on 26 Oct (DCP details).

**Vesper Sparrow:** 25 were counted in Dickinson Co. on 17 Sep (THK, FLM, RCe).

**Savannah Sparrow:** 36 were at Rathbun Res. on 14 Oct (RLC).

**LeConte's Sparrow:** The first were 2 on 16 Sep at Dewey's Pasture (MCK, JJD, HZ) and 2-4 on 16-17 Sep in Dickinson Co. (RLC, et al.); the peak was 19 on 14 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD).

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** Single birds were found at Hendrickson M. on 27 Sep (HZ details) and Coralville Res. on 29 Sep (JF).

**Fox Sparrow:** 18 at Rathbun Res. on 4 Nov (RLC) were the most reported.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 1 was already at Grammer Grove on 4 Sep (MPr details, EuA, EIA) [ties 2nd earliest]; 12 were at Saylorville Res. on 30 Sep (BEn), and 13 were in Warren Co. on 29 Oct (SJS).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 2 were relatively early on 25 Sep near Booneville (EuA, EIA).

**Harris' Sparrow:** More common as a migrant in western Iowa, 1 was a little unexpected in NE Iowa at Cresco on 7 Oct (MPe).

**Lapland Longspur:** The first were 6 on 16 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SJD); the only concentrations were 600 on 24 Oct at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK) and 2,000 s. of Ames on 28 Nov (SJD).

**Snow Bunting:** They came early this year: 2 were in Humboldt Co. on 20 Oct (DBi) [ties record earliest], 5 were at Coralville Res. on 22 Oct (JF) [2nd earliest], and 13 were at Saylorville Res. on 26 Oct (AJ, EuA, EIA). The largest number was 40 in Madison Co. on 29 Nov (EuA, EIA).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 1 was singing in Mills Co. on 29 Oct (DoR).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 1 was reported from Red Rock Res. on 1 Nov (BBR, GB).

**Rusty Blackbird:** 60 in with other icterids were studied at close range on 26 Sep at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK details) [record earliest].

**Brewer's Blackbird:** 2 were carefully observed on 30 Sep at Mason City (JLW details) [ties 2nd earliest].

**Common Grackle:** 1,000 in Warren Co. on 2 Nov (SJS) was the only flock reported.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 250 birds, all males, were in Woodbury Co. on 4 Sep (BH).

**Northern Oriole:** 1 was at a Marshalltown feeder on 18-21 Nov (Betty Savage fide BPr); another showing characters of Bullock's race was in Scott Co. on 29 Nov (Mrs. H. Wood Miller details fide PCP).

**Pine Grosbeak:** A female with russet around the head was in Sioux Co. on 18 Nov (JVD).

**Purple Finch:** The peak was 30 on 22 Oct at Saylorville Res. (BEn).

**House Finch:** 1-3 birds were reported in Mills, Boone, Johnson, Cherokee, Jasper, Marshall, Pottawattamie, and Sioux counties. They were undoubtedly also seen elsewhere. Are there any particular locations where they have not yet arrived?

**White-winged Crossbill:** Starting with 5 birds in Perry on 17 Nov (RKM), this species popped up everywhere. The peak report was 12 in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines on 18 Nov (RKM, RCe). Over the next 9 days up to 8 were reported from the following additional locations: Urbandale, Marshall Co., Story Co., Fairfield, Council Bluffs, Liscomb, and Waterloo (m.ob.).

**Common Redpoll:** 1 was in Sioux Co. on 18 Oct (fide JVD) [2nd earliest]; the only other report was of 2 in Boone Co. on 10 Nov (SL).

**Pine Siskin:** They were widely reported with a peak of 70 in Algona on 10 Oct (MCK).

**Evening Grosbeak:** The only report was 2 near Algona on 11 Nov (RodS, MCK).

## CONTRIBUTORS

\*=documentation only

Pam Allen (West Des Moines); Reid Allen (West Des Moines); Eloise Armstrong (Booneville); Eugene Armstrong (Booneville); \*Louise Augustine (Chillicothe, IL); Carl J. Bendorf (Iowa City); Dick Bierman (Cherokee); \*Jean M. Braley (Shenandoah); Tanya Bray (Omaha, NE); Marion M. Brewer (Cherokee); Beth Brown (Osceola); Robert Cecil (Des Moines); \*David J. Conrads (Cedar Falls); Raymond L. Cummins (Centerville); James J. Dinsmore (Ames); Steve J. Dinsmore (Ames); Beryl Engebretsen (Johnston); James Fuller (Iowa City); Alan G. Grenon (Omaha, NE); Douglas C. Harr (Larchwood); James L. Hansen (Clear Lake); Bill Huser (S. Sioux City, NE); Ann Johnson (Norwalk); Matthew C. Kenne (Algona); Thomas H. Kent (Iowa City); \*Darwin Koenig (Montezuma); \*Cal & Bernie Knight (Iowa City); Sharon Laub (Rippey); Paul Mantsching (Ames); Robert K. Myers (Perry); Babs Padelford (Bellevue, NE); Loren Padelford (Bellevue, NE); Marietta Petersen (Walnut); Peter C. Petersen (Davenport); \*Randall Pinkston (Iowa City); Diane C. Porter (Fairfield); Beth Proescholdt (Liscomb); Mark Proescholdt (Liscomb); \*B.J. Rose (Omaha, NE); Doug Rose (Glenwood); \*Mark Rouw (Des Moines); W. Ross Silcock (Tabor); Jim Sinclair (Indianola); Ramona R. Sommerlot (Union); Sue J. Spieker (Norwalk); Jon Stravers (Pella); Mike Thomas (Des Moines); John Van Dyk (Sioux Center); Jan L. Walter (Mason City); Hank Zaletel (Colo).

## OTHER OBSERVERS

Bart Ballard (Ames); Gladys Black (Pleasantville); John Cecil (Des Moines); L. Paul Hertzell (Ames); Richard W. Huser; Ken Lowder (Iowa City); Francis L. Moore (Waterloo); Wolfgang Oesterreich (Ames); Jerry Probst (Sioux City); Rod Schmidt (Burt); Richard Tetrault (Iowa City); Rick Wright (Omaha, NE).

## COMMENTS

Most reports were very well done and, overall, the documentation was excellent. A number of the the early and late records were not accompanied by any description of the bird or circumstances. These birds at the fringe of their seasons are noteworthy and should be supported by some details of the identification. A full documentation is usually not necessary but please include enough detail to indicate you were aware of the unusual date and were careful with the identification. For a general guide to expected dates, refer to Kent (1988).

Very few photos were submitted, and I would like to encourage more of you to begin carrying your camera whenever you go out in the field. As the old proverb says, "the palest ink is better than the best memory", even a poor photo can greatly support a written documentation and good photos are always considered for publication.

I entered a total of 1,375 individual records into my computer from 46 observers; 73 documentations were received for 30 species. Just for fun, I sorted all the records entered for the fall season from 1986 through 1989 (a total of 4,506) by day of the week. The breakdown is below with the percentage of the total (rounded):

Table 2. Day of week of 1,375 bird records reported in fall field seasons, 1986-1989.

day of week	no.	%
Sunday	1,050	23
Monday	516	11
Tuesday	454	10
Wednesday	462	10
Thursday	466	10
Friday	500	11
Saturday	1,058	23

Nearly half the records were generated on the weekends; the rest of the week was pretty evenly divided with a little more activity on Mondays and Fridays. I was surprised at how symmetrical the results were. This is a small illustration of the effect of observer activity on bird records.

#### LITERATURE CITED

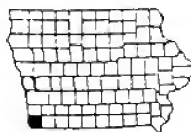
Kent, T.H. 1988. Early and late dates updated. *Iowa Bird Life* 58:7-14.

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# LONG-BILLED CURLEW IN SOUTHWESTERN IOWA

CARL PRIEBE



During the afternoon of 11 April 1989 I observed a Long-billed Curlew and a Marbled Godwit feeding in shallow water on the Riverton Wildlife Area in Fremont County. Both birds were a plain brown color similar to that of a hen pheasant. I watched the birds from approximately 3:45 to 4:15 p.m. and then called Ross Silcock to get a second observer. By the time Ross arrived, the birds could not be relocated.

The two birds were feeding about 70-80 yards away from the dike I was on. The smaller of the two, the Marbled Godwit, had a long upturned bill that was orange at the base changing to black at the tip. The larger bird, the Long-billed Curlew, had a longer bill, perhaps 10 inches, that was curved slightly downward. It also had a faint eye line with a lighter area above the eye. The body size of the Long-billed Curlew appeared to be almost as large as a hen pheasant.

The Long-billed Curlew was noticeably larger than the Marbled Godwit. Another curlew, the Whimbrel, also has a down-turned bill but it is about the same size as a Marbled Godwit or slightly smaller. The White-faced Ibis likewise has a long down-turned bill but in spring its plumage is a dull purple. The combination of the large body size, coloration, and the extremely long down-curved bill identify the bird I saw as a Long-billed Curlew.

Previously, there have been only four accepted sightings of Long-billed Curlews in Iowa in this century, the most recent being in 1932 (Dinsmore et al., "Iowa Birds", Iowa State Univ. Press, 1984). During the last 30 years there have been several spring sightings in neighboring states. These include three in Illinois, all in April, and at least four at Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge in northwestern Missouri only 45 miles southeast of Riverton. Three of the four were seen in April and one was in late May. The species nests in western Nebraska and South Dakota. There have also been a few sightings in recent years that have not been documented. A specimen taken in Emmet County on 12 November 1968 is in the bird collection at Iowa State University (#2496). Conservation Officer Don Priebe has also seen single Long-billed Curlews at the Riverton Wildlife Area twice during his 21 years of service in Fremont County (personal comm.).

*Box 490, Sidney, IA 51652.*



## REVIEWS

**The Birds of Illinois** by H. David Bohlen, illustrated by William Zimmerman. Indiana Univ. Press, Bloomington. 1989. 221 pp., hardbound, \$57.50. This new work for our neighboring state is a hybrid between a coffee-table book with full-page color paintings and a careful catalog of distribution, abundance, status, and period of occurrence for the 439 species (including 35 hypothetical species) found through 1987. The 49 color plates by Zimmerman depicting 87 species are nicely done and well reproduced but probably doubled the book's price.

The six-page introduction briefly describes the state's physical features. Two maps are provided: one shows counties, major cities, and rivers, and the other locates 50 major birding areas. Several prime birding areas including the LaSalle County Nuclear Plant, the top waterfowl hot spot in north-central Illinois, are omitted. Definitions of terms of abundance and a brief discussion of conservation in Illinois conclude this section.

The species accounts emphasize distribution and abundance in this century, current status of each species, timing of migration, habitat preference, and nesting information. To check the species accounts, I carefully read the account of the Double-crested Cormorant, a species that nests in good numbers in the portion of Illinois I regularly bird. The one-page account was accurate except for a typo in the nesting section (Doubled-crested Cormorant) and a few omissions. Two winter records in "Iowa Birds" were overlooked; a 15 January 1975 record and two that wintered on the Mississippi in 1980-81. Likewise, an American White Pelican that wintered in 1975-76 at Cordova, Illinois was not mentioned. Very likely other Illinois records from along the Mississippi River but published in "Iowa Birds" or *Iowa Bird Life* were overlooked.

The book concludes with a nine-page literature cited section, two-pages of initials and corresponding names of observers, and an index to bird species. It is well bound, and the double-column format makes for easy reading of the fact-filled species accounts.

It is difficult to rate this book against other recent offerings from Midwestern states since most contain more information than this one (i.e., "Iowa Birds" and "Birds in Minnesota"). Those of similar format are "The Birds of Indiana" (1984) and "The Birds of Ohio" (1989). This book is much like Peterjohn's Ohio book with a bit more emphasis on dates, the plates being identical. The Indiana book put a strong emphasis on breeding species; all were illustrated and larger type was used for their accounts. In total "The Birds of Illinois" is well done and reasonably accurate, but may seem a bit expensive to those who are more interested in the text information than the color plates.--Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803

**Birds in Kansas, vol. I** by Max C. Thompson and Charles Ely. Univ. Press of Kansas, Lawrence. 1989, 404 pp., hardbound \$25, softbound \$14.95. It has been 25 years since Richard Johnston wrote "A directory to the birds of Kansas" (Univ. Kansas Mus. Nat. Hist. Misc. Publ. 41, 1965), and so publication of an update has been eagerly awaited. As one who has spent many hours wading through back issues of *American Birds* and the Kansas Ornithological Society's newsletter, I speak from experience of the frustration of trying to compile records of occurrence of Kansas birds. Thus I was happy to see this new book, written by two long-time Kansas ornithologists.

The fact that "Birds in Kansas" is a two volume set (non-passerines and passerines) is an initial problem since only volume 1 has been published. I was immediately impressed by the amount of information included, much of it obviously from the authors' personal field work. The authors state that the book is not intended to be a thorough technical work, but rather one written for the enjoyment and use by both amateur birdwatchers and professional ornithologists. I believe that, with some exceptions, this goal has been met admirably. Anyone who buys this book will like it if it is read with enjoyment in mind.

Introductory sections on the history of Kansas ornithology, and bird distribution and vegetation are very informative. In the species accounts, sections on breeding, and habits and habitats are especially valuable, particularly where the distribution of breeding birds is discussed relative to their preferred habitats.

"Birds in Kansas" is enjoyable. However, I was disappointed when it came to using the book (as distinct from simply enjoying it). My personal interest in Kansas birds is in their temporal and spatial distribution and records of rarer species. As a source of such information, "Birds in Kansas" has some shortcomings. Much data are presented, but the style of presentation is inconsistent and at times even confusing. Temporal distribution of regularly-occurring species is generally handled well. Information on the time of migration, including specific dates as well as an indication of general migration periods, is presented very well. However spatial distribution is shown on a state map for each species with a dot indicating each county where the species has been recorded. This method has limited value as it does not indicate relative abundance, whether records are of migrants, breeders, or winter residents, or age of the records. A system using different symbols, sizes of symbols, etc would have provided such information. I had difficulty understanding the records of some casual, accidental, and vagrant species. For example, I could not tell how many Kansas records there are for the Pacific Loon. The species account lists a specimen and states that there are seven sight records. This suggests a total of eight records, but the account goes on to list three more sight records. It is not clear if these three are included in the seven sight records or are additional records, making a total of 11.

A final point relates to the photographs. There is one for each species, many apparently taken in Kansas, but some obviously not. Photo captions, which are not provided, might have documented some of the rarer species. One obvious error is the substitution of a picture of an immature White Ibis for that of a White-faced Ibis.

In summary, this book is recommended as a valuable and up-to-date contribution, with the caveat that it is neither a complete source for occurrence records of rarer Kansas species nor a particularly useful summary of distribution within Kansas of those species whose ranges reach limits within the state. The second volume is eagerly awaited.--W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

**A Handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World** by Angela Turner, illustrated by Chris Rose. Christopher Helm, London, 1989, 258 pp. This guide considers all 75 species of swallows and martins. Introductory chapters briefly cover morphology and plumage, classification, distribution and migration, food habits, behavior, breeding biology, and populations and conservation for the group in general. Rose's 24 color plates very nicely illustrate 74 species. For many, however, the flight views are small and of limited value. Since most swallows have just one plumage per year and the sexes are similar, only an adult is illustrated for most species. An irritating feature of the plates is that the text information on the facing

page isn't always directly opposite that species' illustration. The species' accounts, which fill most of the book, seem to be up-to-date, thorough, and provide a good summary of information. Topics covered include field characters, habitat, distribution and population, migration, foraging and food, behavior, breeding, voice, description, and races. A 21-page bibliography and an index complete the book.

My reaction when I first heard of this book was why a guide to the swallows. As an identification guide, I question the book's usefulness. Despite their flying ability, swallows don't have the wanderlust that some groups have, reducing the chances of them appearing out of their usual range. In addition, the single plumage per year and lack of sexual dimorphism reduce identification problems. I compared this book's illustrations of the eight species normally found in the United States with those in several commonly used field guides. In my opinion, the plates in the field guides at least equal those in this book, and the plates in the National Geographic guide are superior to those in this book. Overall, I believe the book is most useful as a source of information on this group. James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50010.

**Identification Guide to North American Passerines** by Peter Pyle, Steve N. G. Howell, Robert P. Yunick, and David F. DeSante. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, CA. 1987. 278 pp., softbound \$19.95. This guide describes, in detail, methods used to identify and determine the age and sex of 276 species. A total of 219 line drawings complement the descriptions and help the reader understand what to look for. The book is mainly for those who have birds in the hand and is a must for serious bird banders.--J. J. D.

# I.O.U. BUSINESS

## FALL BUSINESS MEETING

*West Lake Okoboji, 9 September 1989, 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.*

ANN M. BARKER, SECRETARY

Presiding: Jim Dinsmore, President

### *Minutes*

The minutes for the spring 1989 business meeting at Davenport had been published in the summer issue of Iowa Bird Life, and were approved as published (motion by Jim Sinclair seconded by Carol Thompson).

### *Reports*

Treasurer: Francis Moore briefly reviewed the financial status of the I.O.U. Membership currently is 510 and continues to grow. A more detailed report will be made at the spring meeting. Moore indicated that the birdline is in need of donations. Jim Dinsmore reminded members that dues for 1990 will remain the same as in 1989, and members were encouraged to respond promptly to dues notices to be mailed in late fall. Tom Kent suggested that dues notices be sent out no later than early October. Moore agreed.

Records Committee: This committee's 1988 report was published in the summer issue of Iowa Bird Life.

Library/Historical Committee: The committee has not met.

Publications Committee: The committee will meet later this fall. Hank Zaletel announced that the next issue of the newsletter will be out by the third week in November. He encouraged members to submit Christmas Bird Count dates promptly for inclusion.

Membership Committee: The committee has not met. Jim Sinclair is the newly selected chairman.

Nominating Committee: Jim Sinclair, Pete Petersen, and Carol Thompson have been appointed to formulate a slate to be presented at the spring meeting. The offices of secretary and treasurer as well as two board positions will be open.

Breeding Bird Atlas Committee: Carol Thompson reported that the committee met yesterday. Substantial progress was made this year, and the project will be extended through 1990. Participants were encouraged to return data card immediately, even if incomplete, and preferably with updated information only. All cards will be reviewed during the winter. Anyone needing cards should contact Jim Hansen.

Big Day Committee: Ray Cummins' report was deferred; award presentations will be made at the evening session.

### *New Business*

Future meetings: The spring 1990 meeting is set for La Crosse, Wisconsin, and will be a combined meeting with the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. Dinsmore has discussed with Barb Wilson and Babs and Loren Padelford the idea of holding the fall 1990 meeting in southwestern Iowa; there was general agreement that a late fall date was preferable. Francis Moore will issue an invitation from Waterloo for the spring 1991 meeting.

Jim Hansen asked whether the I.O.U. would consider helping fund the D.N.R.'s Peregrine Falcon release project. All money is donated through the Iowa Wildlife Federation. No decision was reached.

### *Announcements*

Steve Dinsmore is planning a fall field trip at the Saylorville area on Saturday, 18 November.

Jim Hansen has forms available to help read and report waterfowl neck collars and wing tags. A swan identification sheet was distributed, with the announcement of a Trumpeter Swan conference in the Twin Cities. Hansen also stated that the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) bill had recently been passed in the Iowa legislature. He encouraged members to get involved in the local and regional assemblies that will eventually help decide how the money will be spent.

Harold White, our local host, reminded members of the "pelagic" trip to be held that evening on West Lake Okoboji.

On a motion by Diane Porter, seconded by Francis Moore, the meeting was adjourned.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

*West Lake Okoboji, 10 September 1989, 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon*

ANN M. BARKER, SECRETARY

*Members present:* Jim Dinsmore (presiding), Eugene Armstrong, Ann Barker, Beth Brown, Bob Cecil, Francis Moore, Diane Porter, Mark Proescholdt, and Carol Thompson.

*Minutes:* The minutes for the 20 May 1989 meeting had been published in the summer issue of *Iowa Bird Life* and were approved as published (motion by Thompson, seconded by Moore).

### *Reports*

*Records Committee:* The nomination of Jim Fuller to replace retiring member Ross Silcock was approved (motion by Barker, seconded by Thompson).

*Nominating Committee:* Dinsmore has appointed the following committee: Carol Thompson, Pete Petersen, and Jim Sinclair. It was moved (Cecil, seconded by Moore) to approve all nominations. The motion passed.

*Breeding Bird Atlas Steering Committee:* Dinsmore has appointed the following committee: Carol Thompson, Barb Wilson, Jim Hansen, John Fleckenstein, and Bob Cecil. It was moved (Armstrong, seconded by Brown) to approve all appointments. The motion passed.

### *New Business*

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union's permanent address has been listed as that of Carl Bendorf who is moving. On a motion by Thompson, seconded by Cecil, the board approved a change to Bendorf's new address, 845 Cypress Court, Iowa City.

*Future meetings:* Fall 1990--Dinsmore has discussed with Barb Wilson and Loren and Babs Padelford the idea of meeting in the Council Bluffs area. The board agrees with the location but had some disagreement on the date. A late fall date would be optimum for waterfowl migration and potential rarities but the areas open to birding would be reduced drastically with hunting season in full swing. Sentiment ran slightly in favor of a late October date. Spring 1991--Moore suggested meeting in Waterloo on the third weekend in May, 1991. The board agreed to both the location and date. Moore will proceed with a formal proposal.

### *Announcements*

Diane Porter encouraged board members to remind all birders to call in reports to the Iowa Bird Line (319-338-9881).

On a motion by Cecil, seconded by Moore, the meeting was adjourned.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

*Saylorville, 18 November 1989, 1:20 to 3:45 p.m.*

ANN M. BARKER, SECRETARY

*Members present:* Jim Dinsmore (presiding), Eugene Armstrong, Ann Barker, Beth Brown, Bob Cecil, Francis Moore, Diane Porter, Mark Proescholdt. Also present: Jim Sinclair.

*Minutes:* Minutes for the 10 September 1989 meeting had been distributed to all board members and were approved as distributed.

### *Reports*

*Treasurer:* Francis Moore reported that membership for 1989 was 508. To date, 216 renewals have been received for 1990, with renewal notices having been sent out only recently. Moore briefly summarized the financial status of the I.O.U., questioning whether to purchase a new certificate of deposit since the location of the treasurer's office will change in May. After some discussion, it was moved (Brown, seconded by Armstrong) to add \$3,000 to a current short term C.D., with the exact arrangement and details left to the discretion of the Treasurer. The motion passed. Dinsmore asked whether the endowment funds had been set aside from the remainder of the treasury. Moore replied that the fund separation would be completed by spring.

*Membership:* Jim Sinclair reported that bird feeder survey participants who indicated an interest in the I.O.U. had been contacted. This action resulted in 13 or 14 new members. The fall newsletter will have a suggestion to give I.O.U. membership as a Christmas gift. Bob Cecil is putting together a mailing to new members with a welcome letter and back issues of *I.B.L.* and the newsletter. The

membership brochure needs revision. Jim Sinclair, Diane Porter, and Francis Moore will coordinate this project.

#### *Old Business*

Papers have been filed with the State of Iowa to change the I.O.U.'s official address to 845 Cypress Court, Iowa City (Carl Bendorff's address).

#### *New Business*

Committee appointments were considered. Dinsmore has asked Jim Sinclair to serve on the Membership Committee and to chair it. On a motion by Proescholdt, seconded by Brown, the appointment was approved. Bob Cecil and Linda Zaletel have resigned from the Publications Committee, leaving two vacancies. The committee has nominated Ann Barker for a term ending in 1994 and David Edwards for a term ending in 1991. On a motion by Porter, seconded by Proescholdt, both appointments were approved. Tom Kent has resigned as Secretary of the Records Committee; the committee has not appointed a replacement.

The Nominations Committee, composed of Pete Petersen, Carol Thompson, and Jim Sinclair, has selected the following slate of officers for consideration at the spring 1990 meeting: Hilda Sickels for Secretary to replace Ann Barker, Wayne Livermore for Treasurer to replace Francis Moore, and Eloise Armstrong and Rick Hollis to replace Eugene Armstrong and Beth Brown on the Board of Directors.

Harold White, host of the fall meeting at Lake Okoboji, reported net proceeds from the meeting of \$605. In the past, I.O.U. policy has been to split any surplus with the host organization but the host group has been responsible for any loss. White donated \$122 of his proceeds to the Quad City Audubon Society to compensate that group for its loss in hosting the spring 1989 meeting. The remaining \$483 was given to the I.O.U. to be placed in a special fund for reimbursing local clubs for any losses incurred in hosting our meeting. White had indicated that he felt that our current policy was unfair. Following discussion, it was moved (Porter, seconded by Barker) that the policy toward local host organizations be modified so that the I.O.U. will be responsible for reasonable (at the discretion of the board) losses incurred in hosting spring and fall meetings. The motion passed.

Tom Kent has resigned as Editor of *Iowa Bird Life*. The Publications Committee met recently and discussed the matter. They will publish a call for proposals for the editorship in the newsletter now being prepared. As in the past, the committee will employ an open policy in selecting an editor, and will vote by secret ballot. Proescholdt suggested that the board give the committee a vote of confidence; all agreed.

The board reviewed the policies of the Publications Committee regarding courtesy copies of books for reviewers and exchanges of publications with other groups. It is a common procedure for a reviewer to be given the copy of the book he/she reviews. The committee feels this is appropriate but has not been doing this in the past. It was moved (Armstrong, seconded by Cecil) to adopt a policy of allowing a reviewer to keep a copy of the book reviewed. The motion passed. Regarding an exchange policy, the committee has asked that a limited number of journals be exchanged with other organizations and that those become the property of the editor. It was moved (Barker, seconded by Brown) to accept the Publications Committee's proposal. The motion passed.

Upcoming meetings: The spring 1990 Tri-State meeting scheduled for La Crosse will be announced in the newsletter due out in March. A proposal for holding the fall 1990 meeting in southwestern Iowa has been discussed with Barb Wilson and the staff at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge. Because of severe restrictions on available field trip locations during hunting season, three dates in late August and early September were considered best for this meeting. Francis Moore has proposed to hold the spring 1991 meeting in Waterloo. This proposal was approved by the board.

Moore distributed a proposed 1990 budget for the I.O.U. The board will defer consideration until after the Publications Committee selects an editor for *Iowa Bird Life* and anticipated costs for the journal are better known.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

## BY-LAWS OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 19 MAY 1985

#### *Purpose*

1. To publish a quarterly journal, *Iowa Bird Life*, and such other regular publications as deemed desirable by the membership.

2. To publish special publications as deemed desirable by the committee, Board, or membership of the Union.
3. To make the publications of the Union as exemplary as possible with the resources available.
4. To distribute (by mail) announcements of meetings, membership and subscription renewal notices, and other items as determined by the Board or President acting for the Board.
5. To establish a place of publication for the publications of the Union and to make such appointments as are necessary to produce and distribute the publications.
6. To make sure the publication process conforms to the Union's tax exempt status.
7. To sell and/or distribute printed and other materials of the Union such as back issues of publications, reprints, checklists, pamphlets, books, badges, and other paraphernalia.
8. To assist other committees in carrying out their function where publication and/or distribution to the membership is involved.

#### *Committee Structure*

1. The committee shall consist of five members.
2. Terms on the committee shall be five years with one member appointed to the committee each year. Terms shall begin after the first annual meeting of the Union in the year of the appointment. No member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.
3. The committee shall make recommendations to the Board for filling positions on the committee, whether vacated or expiring.
4. The committee shall elect its own officers which shall include at least a chairperson.
5. The committee may create such administrative positions as are necessary to carry out its functions. Committee members themselves may serve in such positions. The committee may allow administrative persons to attend meetings and/or vote except when appointments or recommendations for future committee members are involved.
6. The committee may delegate to administrative positions the authority to make further appointments or retain that authority for themselves. The committee may retract any authority given to administrative positions, including replacement of the person or abolition of the position. The committee should approve any permanent position (e.g., Book Review Editor) even though they delegate the authority to appoint individuals to the position.
7. Qualifications for appointment to the committee should include expertise in the publication process, knowledge of Iowa ornithology, and/or familiarity with the publication needs of the membership. Members of the committee should be willing and able to actively participate in carrying out the mission of the committee.

#### *Committee Procedures*

1. The committee may set up such procedures as are needed for its operation as long as they do not conflict with the constitution or the committee by-laws.
2. The committee may recommend changes in the by-laws to the Board.
3. The committee may hold meetings as needed and/or conduct business by mail or phone. The Chairperson or two other members may call a meeting. A quorum for the conduct of formal business shall consist of three members.
4. The committee may recommend to the Board the replacement of any committee member for incapacity or unexcused absence by affirmative action of three committee members.
5. Administrative positions should be reviewed regularly--at least every five years. Both the functions of the job and the performance of the occupant should be reviewed.

#### *Finances*

1. The committee shall submit a prospective budget to the Board (via the President) prior to January 1 of each calendar year.
2. No monies shall be expended beyond the approved budget without prior approval by the Board or President acting for the Board. It is recognized that occasional cost overruns due to circumstances beyond control of the committee or its appointees may occur. Any such occurrences should be investigated and reported to the Board.
3. No member shall receive remuneration for their work on the committee. Any benefits, direct or indirect, to a committee member, relative, or friend shall be discussed and considered by the committee prior to any decision to expend funds.
4. Any benefits, direct or indirect, to administrative positions established by the committee or persons appointed to these positions shall be discussed and considered prior to



- establishment of the position or appointment of the person. If such benefits are substantial or represent a significant conflict of interest, they shall have prior approval of the Board.
5. Committee members may be reimbursed for expenses such as mailing and supplies. In general, unless it would provide a hardship and prevent the necessary conduct of business, committee members should not be reimbursed for travel or telephone expenses.
  6. Funds to be paid to administrative persons or expenses to be paid by administrative persons on behalf of the Union for the tasks of publication and distribution shall be reflected in the annual prospective budget.

**A Change in Editors**--As some of you know, this issue marks a change in editors for *Iowa Bird Life*. After four years of editing the journal, Tom Kent resigned at the end of 1989. The Iowa Ornithologists' Union has had three very talented editors in 59 years of publishing its journal. The first, Fred Pierce, edited *Iowa Bird Life* for a remarkable 30 years (1931-1960) and developed it into a fine state journal. His editorship included the difficult years of the Depression and World War II. Pete Petersen took over the editorship in 1961 and served an equally remarkable 25 years. During Pete's years, line drawings of birds were added to the journal's cover, a series of articles on birding areas eventually resulted in a book on that topic, and the Field Reports section grew into a regular feature. In 1986, Tom Kent assumed the editorship and took it into the computer era. Tom's innovations included cover photos, glossy paper, and editorials. Few state ornithological groups can match Iowa's record in both the quality and the consistency of its state journal. I think that few I.O.U. members are aware of the time and commitment that these editors have devoted to their job. As members, we all owe them our thanks for their sacrifices of time and talent to publish our journal.

As I put together my first issue of *Iowa Bird Life*., I know that I have the big footsteps of those three individuals that I must try to fill. The previous editors have defined a journal that is both solid in its content and diverse in its features. I plan to make some minor changes but I don't envision major changes in the journal's content. I hope that you will share with me your thoughts of what you think the journal should look like. Please bear with me as I learn the ropes of both editing and talking to a new computer. Hopefully some day I will approach the proficiency that our previous editors brought to the job. Like all of them, I appeal to you to contribute articles, notes, letters, or other material to the journal. Also, please be understanding if I make suggestions to items you submit or even if I have to say that your article is not acceptable. My job includes maintaining the quality of the journal, and I have to do what I think is best for the journal and the organization. With that, this first issue is a start on what I hope will be a prosperous era for *Iowa Bird Life*. Incidentally, I do have back issues for sale if any of you would like to see what you have missed from previous years. Good birding to you all.--Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50010.